(21) 19 in Ship Case 140-Cruise

POL 27 AK AD IJK (140)

INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

XR DEF 12 US 17

45

CONFIDENTIAL

Action EUR

Info SS GPM SP SC SAH L H NEA IO P NSC INR CIA NSA DOD ACDA O SY OPR OC TRSY RSR

EFVZCZCDKA636
OO RUEHC
DE RUDKMD 471 1611415
ZNY CCCCC
O 1014152 JUN 67
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
STATE GRNC
BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 3471

000364

1967 JUN 10 AM 10 25

Madrid 3471

1. MFA OFFICIAL CALLED EMBASSY TO SAY " HIGHEST LEVELS" GOS VERY CONCERNED OVER PRESS REPORTS ON "USS LIBERTY" INCIDENT FROM US SOURCES STATING VARIOUSLY THAT SHIP DEPARTED ROTA JUNE 2; SHIP ATTACHED TO JOINT SPANISH-US BASE OF ROTA; AND SHIP'S USUAL BASE IS ROTA. MADRID EVENING DAILY EL ALCAZAR CARRIED MOST EXTENSIVE ARTICLE ON INCIDENT IN JUNE 9 ISSUE BYLINED ROSS MARK FROM WASHIGTON.

2. MFA OFFICIAL EXPLAINED THAT GOS PREOCCUPATION STEMMED FROM CONCERN THAT SPAIN WOULD BE ASSOCIATED IN PUBLIC OPINION WITH OPERATIONS ANY US UNIT BASED JOINT USE BASE SPAIN. HE SPECIFICALLY ASKED IF NEWS REPORTS ON THIS SCORE CORRECT. AFTER CHECKING WITH ROTA, EMBOFF TOLD HIM USS LIBERTY NOT BASED ROTA, HAD CALLED THERE FOR ABOUT ONE DAY EARLY JUNE MERELY TO REFUEL AND THAT TO BEST OUR KNOWLEDGE THIS FIRST AND ONLY VISIT OF SHIP TO ROTA. MFA GRATIFIED WITH REPLY AND INTENDS ASK EL ALCAZAR CARRY CORRECTION ATTRIBUTED TO "OFFICIAL SOURCES".

3., REQUEST DEPT CAUTION OFFICIAL USG SPOKESMEN OBSERVE GREATEST CARE IN ANY REFERENCES TO SPAIN DURING CURRENT M. E. CRISIS. WALKER

BT NOTE: PASSED S/S-O AT 10:34 AM 6/10/67
PASSED WHITE HOUSE, USIA AT 11:00 AM 6/10/67

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY John Kelly DATE 9/22/82
PDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☑ RELEASABLE☑
RELEASE DENIED☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

2

CONFIDENTIAL